

Parish Newsletter

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 30 JULY 2017
Year A | Issue 36

LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL

Today's collection of parables highlights some home truths about life.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that is cast into the sea and brings in a haul of all kinds of fish." Then the fishers pull it in and sort out the good from the bad. Life is like that. During life we gather a whole range of experiences and every so often we need to sit down and see what is in the net. Which experiences were positive?

Which were negative? What lessons have we learned and where do we go from here?

That is where we need the wisdom of Solomon, able to discern between good and evil, what is good for us and others, and what is damaging or destructive. When we identify what is life-giving, then we have found a treasure.

The parables of the Treasure, and

Today's Readings



1 Kings 3:5.7-12
Psalm 118:57.72.76-77.127-130
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52

Next Sunday's Readings



Daniel 7:9-10.13-14
Psalm 96:1-2.5-6.9
2 Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9

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the Pearl speak of people finding something they value and giving everything for it. When one hears the story of someone at the top of their sport or profession it can be staggering to hear the sacrifices they have made to get to that point. I feel tired even to hear of the way professional sportspersons push their bodies to the limit.

I am full of admiration for the hour after hour of practice undertaken by a professional musician or dancer; likewise the patience of an academic researcher to arrive at a point of mastering their subject. How they treasure their goal! They are prepared to give up so much to achieve it. Have you ever found yourself saying, "That was worth it," after giving up something

(time, pleasure, money, etc.)? What was the treasure that made the sacrifice worthwhile?

Elsewhere Jesus says "Seek first the kingdom of God", the kingdom of love, for he knows that love is the treasure most likely to inspire us to give up everything so that we can safeguard it. Is it not true that in love we find a treasure that will enrich us, give meaning and purpose to our lives, enable us to develop our potential to the full and make a helpful contribution to the lives of those around us? We are here to make a difference, and a positive difference. Along the way we will make mistakes but if we learn from them and move on, then, as St Paul says: "We know that by turning everything to their good, God cooperates with all those who love him."

— John Byrne, OSA

Reflection

When have you said, "That was worth it," after a demanding task?

Lesson

The one who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, the one who sows generously will reap bountifully. (2 Cor 9:6)

Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

This Week (31 July–6 August)

- 31 **Mon** St Ignatius of Loyola, priest
- 1 **Tue** St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop
- 2 **Wed** Ss Eusebius of Vercelli & Peter Julian Eymard
- 3 **Thur** St Germanus of Auxerre, bishop
- 4 **Fri** St John Mary Vianney, priest
- 5 **Sat** Ded. of Basilica of St Mary Major in Rome
- 6 **Sun** THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD





St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)
3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP. Tel. 028 90458158. Mobile 07740603643.

Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthony@downandconnor.org,
henrymccann@hotmail.com. Website: www.saintanthony.co.uk

MASS TIMES & SERVICES (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9.30am, 1pm & 7pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am. Friday at 7.00pm.

Wednesday: Communion Service discontinued until further notice (Day off)

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass at 7.00pm & Morning of Feast Day 09.30am

Confessions: Before each Mass and By Arrangement. Baptisms: Saturdays at 4pm (3 weeks notice required)



17th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 13:44-52

1. Have you ever found yourself saying 'that was worth it' after giving up something (time, pleasure, money, etc.)? What was the treasure that made the sacrifice worthwhile?
2. The 'kingdom of heaven' is when God is really the ruler in our life. What treasures have you obtained when you allow God to be at the centre of your life?
3. In life we gather a lot of things, some good and some bad. The wise person in the kingdom of heaven knows how to sit down and make decisions on what to keep and what to discard. When have you undertaken that kind of discernment? What have you discarded? What have you retained?

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Maureen Meehan

Anniversaries: Charlotte & Michael Hopkins, Frances Matthews, Jean O'Connor, Letty Murray, Neil Watson (Sat 29th July at 6:30pm), Dan Gallagher (Sun 30th July at 11:30am), Robert (Bobbie) McParland (Sat 5th Aug at 6:30pm), Vincent Crilly (Sun 19th Aug at 6:30pm), Brenda Gunn (Sun 20th Aug at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

UPDATED ROTAS AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY (Sorry for Confusion)

Sun 30th July

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Anthony Clifford
Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 6th August

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis McGrillen & Maria Murphy
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Trocaire Emergency East Africa Appeal £1019.42. (If you have not yet given and would like to, please use the envelopes provided and write your name on the envelope). Weekly £468.35, Shrines £68.50. NEW BOXES OF ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. If your details have changed, or if you would like to register for a box, please give your details to Fr McCann as soon as possible. Please consider signing a Gift Aid form so that the parish can claim back the Tax from the HMRC on your contributions. Your own Tax is not affected.

Pastoral Community Forum. As part of the development of pastoral communities within the diocese, each pastoral area is asked to find one volunteer who would work with the parish priest to represent the parish on a Pastoral Community Forum. As yet no one has come forward. If you would like to take part in the South and East Belfast Pastoral Community Forum, please give your name to Fr McCann as soon as possible.

Diploma in Pastoral Theology at Drumalis. Drumalis invites applications for the next intake of the Diploma in Pastoral Theology, validated by St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth. This intensive, two-year course is delivered over twelve days per year. Course fees are subsidised by the Friends of Drumalis. Please bring this to the attention of parishioners who might benefit from it and who might share those benefits with their parishes. Further information is available on the Drumalis website or by emailing marta@drumalis.co.uk

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and is for individuals from any faith background (and none) who want to explore and enquire into the catholic faith. It is a weekly series of classes and discussion covering a wide range of aspects of the catholic faith. The weekly classes are on Thursday evenings and last 1hr.30mins. Ultimately, RCIA is a journey of faith exploration and development, culminating in the reception of the catechumens/candidates into the catholic community at Pentecost, if after their exploration and enquiry into the catholic faith the Holy Spirit inspires them to do so. (Catechumen participants are those who were never baptized. Candidate participants are those who were baptized into another faith denomination). The RCIA programme begins at St. Mary's, Chapel Lane on 5th October 2017. Should you wish to take part, please contact Fr. James Boyle MIIM, or Anne McCrossan ASAP to arrange a meeting and register. Tel: 02890 320482 Email: administratorofstmarys@btinternet.com. SEE POSTER IN THE PORCH.

CCJ-NI have a new venture starting... FIRST MONDAY STUDY. We have had many comments from members who have enjoyed Rabbi Singer's teaching at different events, so from Monday the 7th August we will be hosting an INTERACTIVE Bible Study on the first Monday of each month at 7:45pm. The topics for these studies will be the application of our faith in our daily lives. August will be titled "Truth through the Psalms". Numbers for these studies will be limited to allow for open discussion and interaction, so registration is a MUST on a first come, first served basis each month. For more information contact Sharon Lough (co-secretary), ccj.belfast@gmail.com, or phone 07925 926685. See poster in Porch.

Come all ye and sing for your supper in aid of children in Malawi. Informal music session, participate or listen, sing or be silent, maybe even dance! August 18th, 7.30-10pm, DOWNSHIRE COMMUNITY HALL, 1 Downshire Pk Central Cregagh Road. See poster in Church porch.

Recruitment for Young Men for Morning Star House Legion of Mary. Will you lend a helping hand? The Legion of Mary needs young men between 16-18 to give 2 hours per week working for homeless men in Morning Star House Belfast. If you are interested or would like to find out more information, contact Michael at 077 6341 8867

Belfast Community Gospel Choir, St Mary's on the Hill Parish, Glengormley, have arranged that this acclaimed choir shall give a presentation of music and hymns in praise of God at St Bernard's Church, on Friday 6th October at 8pm. Tickets are £10 per adult and £5 per child and can be bought from the Repository, the parish office or online at bcgsmoth.eventbrite.co.uk, email bcgsmoth@gmail.com or call 07377 098094. See poster in porch.

Faith Development Co-Ordinator, Diocese of Down and Connor Living Church Office. Fixed Term Contract for 3 years. A vacancy has arisen within the Living Church Office for the role of Faith Development Co-Ordinator. The post holder will provide support to the Director of the Living Church in the management of the day to business within the office, and will provide training and resources to enhance Faith Development across the Diocese of Down and Connor. The terms are based on a 3-year fixed term contract requiring 25 hours per week, however, flexibility will be required in relation to attendance and hours worked, in order to meet the business needs within the agency. If interested in making application for this post, please visit www.downandconnor.org for further information in relation to the application process and other Terms and Conditions connected to this role. Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Wednesday 9th August 2017. See poster in Church porch. More information and applications from Fr McCann in the sacristy.

Learn the basic skills in cross stitching and create your own piece of embroidery. The informal class is in the Good Shepherd Centre (Holy Rosary Parish) on Saturday 19 August from 1.30pm until 4.30pm. Class fee is £10.00 which includes tuition, materials and refreshments. To book, contact Joanne, telephone 07990 945818.

Fatima Conference for Northern Ireland on September 8th and 9th - in conjunction with World Apostolate of Fatima (Ireland), the Pontifical Marian Academy, the Marian Institute and the Mariological Society of Ireland. This two day event will explore in detail the events of Fatima, its message to today's world and its call. In the Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly. See poster in Church Porch.

British Red Cross Volunteers. Can you spare 1 hour a week or more? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair load service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed. Contact David Moore on 028 9073 5380 / 07841727043.

Parish Safeguarding. Can you please ensure that all Children and Vulnerable Adults are accompanied at all times when entering the Sacristy / Toilet facilities. If you have any queries regarding the Safeguarding Policy please contact a member of the Parish Safeguarding Committee. Many Thanks, Fr Henry PP.